

216

JURY 8/24/71

1ST ADD JURY 212 XXX KENNEDY.

THE LETTER SPECIFICALLY WAS CRITICAL OF COUNTY CLERK WILLIAM SHARP AND OF PETER TALMACHOFF, CHIEF OF THE CRIMINAL DIVISION OF THE OFFICE.

"THE OFFICIAL RECORDS OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE RELATING TO THE VIEWING OF THE EVIDENCE IN THE CASES OF THE PEOPLE VS. SIRHAN B. SIRHAN AND PEOPLE VS. JACK KIRSCHKE ARE INCOMPLETE, INADEQUATE, CONFUSING AND IN SOME INSTANCES, SIMPLY MISSING," THE LETTER SAID.

EPSTEIN ALSO CLAIMED "NUMEROUS PAGES" FROM TWO PHOTOSTATIC COPIES OF ONE OF SIRHAN'S NOTEBOOKS DISAPPEARED DURING THE TIME THE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE HAD THEM.

REFERRING TO SHARP'S RESPONSIBILITY, THE LETTER RELATED THAT THE COUNTY CLERK TESTIFIED THAT A MAY 1969 COURT ORDER CONCERNING THE EXHIBITS IN THE SIRHAN CASE DID NOT COME TO HIS PERSONAL ATTENTION UNTIL LAST JUNE.

BY SUCH TESTIMONY BEFORE THE GRAND JURY, SHARP "HAS EXHIBITED A FAILURE OF EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN HIM AND HIS SUBORDINATES IN CONNECTION WITH THE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF HIS OFFICE IN A UNIQUE CASE OF HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE," EPSTEIN WROTE.

"MR. SHARP'S CONCERN WITH MINOR DETAILS OF REFORM WHILE OVERLOOKING MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES IS CULPABLE," HE ADDED.

(MORE)

TT358PM